

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for implanting a prosthetic device in a body comprising:

placing a first suture through tissue at a first position using a first needle of a suture system having at least three needles connected by suture strands;

placing a second needle of the suture system, the second needle being attached to a double stranded suture, in the tissue at a distance from the first position, different strands of the double stranded suture that are attached to the second needle having different indicators such that the different strands attached to the second needle can be identified;

placing additional sutures using additional needles attached to the second needle through the tissue;

placing the first suture in the prosthetic device using the single-threaded needle of the suture system;

placing the second needle and an associated double-stranded suture in the prosthetic device;

placing additional sutures using additional double-stranded sutures along the prosthetic device; and

~~securing~~ using strands having the indicators to secure
the prosthetic device into position.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the strands of the double-stranded suture are of different colors.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first suture strand is green and another suture strand is white.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein a third strand color is formed with a pair of braided strands of different colors.
5. (Currently Amended) A suture device for suturing a prosthetic device to tissue comprising:

a plurality of at least three connected needles with at least one of the connected needles being attached to a double stranded suture, at least one strand of the double stranded suture attached to the at least one needle having a visual indicator to distinguish the at least one strand from a second strand attached to the at least one needle the

plurality of at least three connected needles including a first end needle attached to a single suture strand and a second end needle attached to single suture strand;

each suture strand extending between a pair of the connected needles such that suture strands can be identified with the visual indicator, the needles being removable from the suture strands after insertion through a prosthetic device and the ends of each strand being identified and secured ~~together~~ with another identified strand to attach the device to the tissue.

6. (Original) The suture device of claim 5 wherein the suture strands include strands of at least two different colors.
7. (Original) The suture device of claim 5 wherein the device has at least three needles that are each associated with at least two strands.
8. (Original) The suture device of claim 5 further comprising a first needle attached to a single strand and a last needle attached to a single strand and said at least one needle associated with at least two suture strands there between.

9. (Previously Presented) The suture device of claim 5 further comprising a plurality of suture pads such that each needle is attached to another needle with a suture strand having a pad attached to the suture strand.
10. (Previously Presented) The suture device of claim 5 wherein the prosthetic device further comprises a cuff through which suture strands are threaded.
11. (Previously Presented) The suture device of claim 5 wherein the prosthetic device comprises a valve.
12. (Previously Presented) The suture device of claim 5 further comprising a package for housing the suture device, the package having at least six needles.
13. (Previously Presented) The suture device of claim 5 further comprising a mechanical suture placement device.
14. (Previously Presented) The suture device of claim 5 wherein the prosthetic device comprises an aortic valve.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing one or more suture pads that are attached to the suture strands.
16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising passing the suture strands through a cuff of the prosthetic device.
17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising passing the different strands attached to the second needle through the same hole in the tissue at a second position, the second needle having a diameter larger than the strands that are attached to the second needle.
18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the prosthetic device comprises a valve.
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing the suture system in a package.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising ~~providing~~ using a suture system having at least three needles attached by suture strands with alternating colors.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for implanting a prosthetic device in a body comprising:

~~placing~~ inserting a first suture through tissue at a first position using a first needle of a suture system having at least three needles connected by suture strands;

~~placing~~ inserting a second needle of the suture system, the second needle being attached to a double stranded suture, ~~in the second needle being inserted through~~ the tissue at a distance from the first position, different strands of the double stranded suture that are attached to the second needle having different indicators such that the different strands attached to the second needle can be identified, the second needle having a diameter larger than the strands that are attached to second needle; and

~~placing~~ inserting a third needle of the suture system through tissue; and

~~to attaché~~ attaching the prosthetic device to the tissue using the strands having the indicators.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the strands of the double-stranded suture are of different colors.
23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the suture system has at least two double stranded needles.
24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the system has at least six needles connected by suture strands.
25. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the step of inserting the second needle further comprises inserting the second needle through a single hole in the tissue such that the suture strands attached to the second needle extend through the single hole.
26. (New) The method of claim 25 further comprising using the indicators to identify the strands extending through the single hole and select strands from adjacent holes in the tissue to secure the identified strands.

27. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising using strands having at least three different colors to connect the needles in sequence.

28. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising using pairs strands from different holes having identified indicators to secure the device